A Tender

SALUTATION

Of Endeared LOVE,

To all that Sincerely Believe in, and Unfeignedly Love our Bleſſed LORD, and for ever to be Admired SAVIOUR and Adored Advocate,

Jeſus Chriſt.

With ſomething of Chriſtian Advice, and Seaſonable Counſel,

For the Encouraging of the Faithful, to be Noble in their Confeſſing to, and Owning of their Glorious Captain; and to Contend earneſtly for the Faith which was once delivered to the Saints.

From one who truly priſes it above all Viſibles here below, in this fading World, to be found at laſt in the cloſe of all, though but as one of the leaſt of them, who are right dear and precious in the ſight of the Lord.

Mary Sandilands.

Matth. 10. 32. *Whoſoever* (ſaid Chriſt) *ſhall Confeſs me before Men, him will I confeſs before my Father which is in Heaven.* (*But*) *whoſoever ſhall be aſhamed of me, and of my Words, of him ſhall the Son be aſhamed, when he ſhall come in his own Glory, and in his Father's, and of the Holy Angels.*

London, Printed by *J. Bradford*, in the Year 1696.

To all Sincere Believers in our Bleſſed Lord Jeſus Chriſt, a Tender Salutation of Unfeigned Love, &c.

Dear Friends,

IN a deep ſence of the unſpeakable Love of God, through his dear Son Chriſt Jeſus, are you often brought before me, and in the laſting fellowſhip and glorious Goſpel of Life and Salvation, are you right dear and near unto me, and in true humility of Soul there is many times a weighty concern and exerciſe upon my Spirit, that we may Travel on all together, being ſtedfaſt in the precious Faith of our elect and holy Head, glorious Advocat, and everliving High-Prieſt, who is for ever worthy to be dearly owned and reverently confeſſed unto, as being the Author of Eternal Salvation unto all them that do obey him.

And indeed, he is moſt worthy of all our love, who with a victorious patience endured, from Sinners, thoſe wicked Scoffings and reproachful Revillings, his moſt pure Head being crowned with a Crown of Thorns, his Undefiled Hands and Feet nailed to the Croſs, his Lovely Face ſpit upon, and his Precious Side pierced through with a Spear, bearing our Sins in his own Body; Dyed the moſt reproachful and ſhameful Death his Enemies could either imagin or inflict; and ſo he that was wholly without Sin, and was, and is the *Immaculate Lamb of God*, was made a Curſe for our Sins, according as it's written, *Curſed is every one that hangeth upon a Tree*, Gal. 3. 13. It is he who hath redeemed us from the Curſe of the Law, that we might receive the Adoption of Sons, which is by Faith in him who laid down his Precious Life for us: For as ſaid the Holy Apoſtle, *Ye are all the Children of God by Faith in*

Chriſt Jeſus: And the Scripture hath concluded *all under Sin*, that the Promiſe by *Faith of Jeſus Chriſt* might be given to them that believe.

And ſurely (we may well ſay with the Evangelical Prophet, *Iſa.* 53. 4, 5.) *He hath born our Griefs, and carried our Sorrows; he was wounded for our Tranſgreſſions, he was bruiſed for our Iniquities, the Chaſtiſement of our Peace was upon him, and with his Stripes we are healed.*

The Living Commemoration of theſe things, in the Opening Power and Spirit of God in the Soul, is truly very precious and comfortable, and many times ariſes, in a daily renewed ſence, thereof a Holy Admiration of the unſpeakable Heighth and Depth of the Riches of the Love of God in Chriſt Jeſus, which Saints and Angels will admire to all Eternity.

And, *dear Friends*, it is my earneſt Deſire, that we may be an Inward Retired People to the *Meaſure* and *Manifeſtation of the Spirit*, the Apoſtle ſpoke of in his Day, which *is given to all to profit with*; and to keep in the Daily Exerciſe of it, and ſo *grow in the Grace of God*, and in the *Experimental Knowledge of our bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt*, that our Underſtandings may be opened more and more, Savingly to know and underſtand the Great Myſteries of GOD and of CHRIST, as they are revealed and diſcovered by the Divine Light of the glorious Son of Righteouſneſs, the great Enlightner of all Mankind: For it is in his Light we ſhall ſee more Light; and by a diligent keeping to it, and following of it, it will lead to the glorious Sun which is in Heaven, even as certainly as a Beam or Ray of the Natural Sun in the Firmament, if it be followed by the light of the outward Eye, will lead naturally to the Body of the Sun it ſelf, which as it cannot be confined to any one particular place here upon Earth, but Univerſally ſends forth its Influences of Light and Heat to all the World, ſo cannot this be contained in any one place: And as none can have a true diſcerning where the outward Sun is, but by his own Light, ſo none can have any true Spiritual Sight of the Celeſtial Sun, but by a Divine Beam and Ray of his own Light,

Light, that ſhines into the Souls of all, and flows from that Rich Fulneſs which is in the *Man Chriſt*, the one Only Mediator betwixt God and Men, who is gone into Heaven, and is on the Right Hand of God in the glorified Nature of Man; Angels, Authorities and Powers being made ſubject unto him, and by his Death, and Sufferings, and *ſhedding* of his *Precious Blood* without the Gates of *Jeruſalem*, together with his moſt perfect Obedience, Patience and Reſignation to the Will of God, and by his glorious Reſurrection, Aſcention and Interceſſion, he hath both procured, and alſo doth diſpenſe all good unto us, and all Bleſſings, Spiritual and Temproral, that we enjoy: It is for his ſake, and through and by him, that we receive them, and are conveyed to us; who is our great High-Prieſt that is paſſed into the Heavens, which is touched with the feeling of our Infirmities. And this Man (viz. Jeſus the Son of God) becauſe he *continueth forever*, Heb. 7. 24. 25. *hath an unchangeable Prieſthood, wherefore he is able alſo to ſave us to the uttermoſt that come to God by him, ſeeing he ever liveth to make Interceſſion for us.*

Therefore as he is the true and proper *Object of Faith*, he is moſt worthy to be owned and confeſſed unto; and it is *thoſe that confeſs him before Men, that he will confeſs before his Father which is in Heaven.* This was ſpoke by him concerning thoſe that ſhould confeſs to him as he was, and is an Undivided Chriſt, and reverently own him as he was, and as he now is, and as he is to come, and daily do expreſs their ſincere love towards him, by keeping of his Commandments, which he doth injoyn all his Diſciples to, according to that ſaying of his, *If ye love me, keep my Commandments; and ye are my Diſciples, if ye do whatſoever I command you.* Telling them alſo, how they ſhould be enabled to keep them, by the Compariſon he made of the *Branches abiding in the Vine*, or elſe they could not bear Fruit; *No more* (ſaid he) *can you, unleſs ye abide in me.* And it is plain as by many Scripture-Teſtimonies, ſo alſo the true Believer in Chriſt Jeſus have experience, that all Evangelical fruits of Righteouſneſs and Holineſs are brought forth by

by the Vertue and Power of Chriſt, and that whatever Obedience any may bring forth or be found in from a bare Conviction of Sin, which is from God's Love and firſt Diſpenſation to all Mankind, and is a Preparative for the ſecond and more Glorious Miniſtration, yet it is all but legal and as from the Servants ſtate; and its ſaid, *The Servant abideth not in the Houſe forever, but the Son.*

Wherefore, ſaid (the Apoſtle) Gal. 3. 24, 25. *The Law was our School-Maſter to bring us unto Chriſt, that we might be juſtified by Faith. But after that Faith is come, we are no longer under a School-Maſter.* And the Law of Old, altho' it was truly obſerved and ſtrictly kept, yet we know that made not the comers thereunto perfect, as pertaining to the Conſcience, but the bringing in of a better hope did; which *hope* is *Chriſt*, which was to the Antients as an *Anchor*, (Heb. 6. 19.) moſt ſure and ſtedfaſt, and was the ground and foundation of the Faith of all the Generations of the Juſt, from Righteous *Abel* unto this very day; and it was in the Faith *Abel* offered to God a more excellent Sacrifice than *Cain*. And when the Author to the *Hebrews* had mentioned many of the Worthies of Old, which time would fail to mention; but ſays he, *They all dyed in the Faith, not having received the Promiſes, but having ſeen them afar off, and were perſwaded of them, and embraced them with joy*, (Heb. 11. 13.) as faithful *Abraham* did, who by the Eye of Faith ſaw the Day of the fulfilling of them, for it is ſaid, that he rejoyced to ſee Chriſt's Day, and he ſaw it and was glad. And ſays he, *All theſe having obtained a good report through Faith, received not the Promiſe.* God having, (obſerve) provided or fore-ſeen ſome better thing for us, that they without us ſhould not be made perfect; which is to be witneſſed in and by our bleſſed Redeemer, Chriſt Jeſus, and through the Powerful operations of his divine Spirit in the Hearts of all ſincere Believers.

And as it was of abſolute neceſſity, and of great benefit and comfort to all God's People, that were before our Bleſſed Lord Jeſus was Born of the Virgin *Mary*, to look forward to his outward Coming, Death and Sufferings for the Remiſſion of Sins, Peace, and Reconciliation, *&c.* So is it likewiſe now no leſs

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leſs neceſſary for all true Believers to look back with the Eye of Faith, unto the bleſſed Day that the Lord Jeſus Chriſt offered up himſelf freely once for all, as a moſt Acceptable and All-ſufficient Sacrifice of Attonement unto God for our Sins, and Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World, by which his Wrath was appeaſed, and Divine Juſtice ſatisfied. For it was by his own Blood he obtained Eternal Redemption, and having made Peace through the Blood of his Croſs, by him to reconcile all things unto himſelf, whether they be Things in Heaven, or Things in Earth; by which Blood he hath made us nigh to God, who ſometimes were afar off; and by the Merit and Virtue of which Precious Blood of the Immaculate Lamb, even that which was *ſhed without the Gates of Jeruſalem*, are we both Juſtified and Sanctified, as we come to have *a Living Faith* therein; and as the Divine Virtue and Efficacy thereof is opened and applied to us by the Holy Spirit. For *God commended his Love towards us, in that while we were yet Sinners, Chriſt dyed for us: Much more then being now juſtified by his Blood, we ſhall be ſaved from Wrath by him*, Rom. 5. 8, 9. *Wherefore Jeſus alſo, that he might Sanctifie the People with his own Blood, ſuffered without the Gate*, &c. Heb. 13. 12.

It is indeed a Mercy greatly to be priſed, that we have the Knowledge of theſe things, as they are left upon Record in the Holy Scriptures, which were written for our Inſtruction and Learning; the Spirit of the Lord alſo in our Hearts evidencing to the Verity thereof, by which they are made very uſeful and comfortable to us in our ſerious diligent Reading of them; which ought to be preferr'd before all other Books whatſoever.

Let us therefore as with one Mouth, bleſs the Lord, and ſay with holy *David*, (Pſalm 103. 1, 2, 3.) *O my Soul, bleſs the Lord, and all that is within me Bleſs his Holy Name: Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine Iniquities, who healeth all thy Diſeaſes*, &c. Let us remember all his Mercies, and Tender Dealings, and his manifold renewed Tokens of his Love and freſh Viſitations, by which we have been encouraged to Travel on towards that everlaſting City of eternal repoſe, where all Tears ſhall be wiped away, and

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all Sighing ſhall come to an end; there the Wicked ceaſe from troubling, and the Weary be at Reſt. We have cauſe to ſay with his Servant of Old, (John 10. 12.) *Thou haſt granted me life and favour, and thy Viſitation hath preſerved my Spirit.*

We are under great Obligations to walk with all Circumſpection before him, adorning the glorious Goſpel of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, in Holineſs of Life and Converſation, that ſo none may have any juſt occaſion to ſpake evilly of us; but if they will through Prejudice or Malice, let it be for Jeſus ſake, who ſaid, *Bleſſed are ye when men ſhall Revile you, and Perſecute you, and ſhall ſay all manner of evil of you Falſly for my ſake, rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your Reward in Heaven; for ſo Perſecuted they the Prophets which were before you.*

And as he hath graciouſly promiſed, he will alſo faithfully perform it, to all his true Followers, who have no ſiniſter or by-end in profeſſing him, but ſincerely loves him, and have him in their Hearts, and that in all Reſpects, in all his Offices, as he is King, Prieſt and Prophet in Heaven, Without us, as well as he is Within us; owns both his Outward and Inward Appearance; they dare not divide the one from the other, nor ſet the one in oppoſition to the other, which God in his infinit Wiſdom hath ſo neceſſarily joyned together as the great means of the Salvation of Mankind.

And upon Chriſt, thus undivided, even upon the ſame *Jeſus of Nazareth*, whom the *Jews* ſlew, and hanged on a Tree, and whom God by his mighty Power raiſed up again the third Day; even him whom God hath exalted with his Right Hand, to be a Prince and Saviour for to give Repentance unto *Iſrael* and forgiveneſs of Sins; I ſay, on this *Jeſus*, who was Crucified for us, and is now ſat on the Right Hand of the Majeſty on High in the Heavens, do they depend (as all ſincere-hearted *Chriſtians* do) for Life and Salvation, and not upon any Works of Righteouſneſs, or even any Obedience, or the beſt Service we are enabled to do by the gracious aſſiſtance of his Spirit; as he ſaid (by way of caution leſt they might imagin that they merited Life by their ſervice, or be to much ſelf-conceited *&c.*) Luk. 17. 10. *When ye ſhall have done*

done all theſe things, which are Commanded, you ſay, we are unprofitable Servants, we have done that which is our duty. So here is all vain Boaſting excluded, and by all our Performances, there is to be no claiming a right or title, by way of Merit, to the Kingdom of God; for it is *by Grace* (free unmerited Grace) that we are *ſaved through Faith*, in our Lord Jeſus, *and that not of our ſelves: It is the Gift of God; Not of Works, leſt any man ſhould boaſt*, Epheſ 2. 8, 9.

Such as before is ſaid, who ſincerely love our *dear Lord Jeſus*, and nobly Confeſs him, for his dear Names-ſake, and can ſay, that they count all things, even all their *own Righteouſneſs*, as the Apoſtle did, *Phil.* 3. 9. but *as dung and droſs* in compariſion of Chriſt, and to be found in him, *not having our own righteouſneſs which is of the Law, but that which is through the Faith of Chriſt*, &c.

It is for you, *Friends*, that Chriſt is gone before to prepare a Place in the Heavenly Manſions of Glory, whom he will Own and Confeſs (as you Perſevere Faithful to the End) in that Great and Laſt Day of General Account, when all Nations ſhall ſtand before him, and he will ſeperate one from another, as a Sheepherd divideth his Sheep from the Goats, ſetting the Sheep on his Right Hand, and the Goats on his Left Hand, and will ſay to the Sheep, *Come ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World.*

With undaunted Courage therefore, and with a Holy Boldneſs, let us hold faſt the Profeſſion of our Faith, *looking unto Jeſus, who is the Author, and the Finiſher thereof he will be*, as we continue in his Word, (Heb. 12. 2.) *Who for the Joy that was ſet before him, endured the Croſs, deſpiſing the Shame, and is ſet down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God*: Whom although we have not ſeen (with our Bodily Eyes) *we love, in whom though now we ſee him not*, yet believing, *we rejoyce with joy unſpeakable and full of Glory*, (1 Pet. 1. 8.) Who is not entered into the Holy Places made with Hands, which are the Figures of the true, but into

Heaven it ſelf, now to appear in the Preſence of God for us; and he hath made the *ſame Jeſus*, whom the *Jews* Crucified, both Lord and Chriſt. And as ſaid the Apoſtle to the believing *Corinthians*, unto whom he Zealouſly Preached *Chriſt Crucified*: and among whom *he determined not to know any thing*, (1 Cor. 2. 2.) *ſave Jeſus Chriſt, and him Crucified*, for ſays he in 2 Cor. 8. 9. *Ye know the Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, that though he was Rich, yet for your ſake* (and ours too) *he became poor, that ye through his Poverty might be Rich.*

And *when he ſhall Change our vile Bodies, that they may be faſhioned like unto his Glorious Body, according to the working whereby he is able to ſubdue all things to himſelf*; Phil. 2. 21. Then ſhall we and all Saints be compleatly Rich, and Everlaſtingly Happy in all reſpects. And this Riches which our *Bleſſed Lord Jeſus* will give unto all his Faithful Followers, and True Believers in him (and which now in time doth give an Earneſt of) is truly worthy our diligent ſeeking after, above all things viſible: It being a Portion that none can deprive us of; and the real Enjoyment of it in any meaſure, is very comfortable and ſupporting in the time of great Need, when we ſhall leave this World, and Launch into the Boundleſs Ocean of Eternity: O then, no bare Profeſſion of Religion, though never ſo refined, will ſtand us in any ſtead, but only the real *Poſſeſſion of the Life thereof*; as Bleſſed be the Lord, I can ſpeak ſomething by Experience, having been often much viſited with Bodily Weakneſs; which through Mercy, I have been helped to bear, and Eſteem it as that which my Heavenly Father ſaw beſt for me. And when I have been weak and low, not knowing whether the Lord would be pleaſed to reſtore me to Bodily Health again (which Bleſſed be his Holy Name, I now enjoy) far beyond what I have often expected, I can truly ſay, that the Inward Meditation of the unſpeakable Love of God to the Children of Men, through his dear Son, hath very deeply affected my Soul: And I hope, without any ſelf-boaſting at all, but to the praiſe only of the moſt Worthy Name of my Dear Lord, be it ſpoken, he hath been pleaſed of late time, to reveal and demonſtrate to

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my Underſtanding; both Immediately and Inſtrumentally: divers weighty precious Goſpel Truths, neceſſary to Salvation; and they are more clearly opened to me then formerly, though the Lord knows I have in the Sincerity of my Heart deſired; and that in the deep Humility of my Soul, the true and living Knowledge of thoſe things which appertain to our Eternal Peace and Everlaſting Well-being with him for ever.

Now *Friends*, being right ſenſible, that the time haſtens one apace upon us all, that nothing can ſtand in any ſtead, but a true Intereſt in Chriſt; and a full Aſſurance through his Spirit in our Hearts, that we have a right to that Incorruptible Inheritance which is received through Faith in him: And now through his great Love and Mercy, he hath brought me truly to eſteem Him, his Doctrine and Truth, more than ever; I truſt it ſhall be my greateſt concern, while I have a being, through his Divine Aid and Aſſiſtance, to exalt him over all, and to Confeſs him, and to Follow him whitherſoever he Leads, whatſoever Oppoſitions or Diſcouragements I may meet with in the way.

So being, through the great goodneſs of God, in a true Sence of theſe things, my Heart is opened in tender Love to the whole Flock and Family of Chriſt, where-ever diſperſed, and under what Denomination, or by what Profeſſion ſoever diſtinguiſhed, even all who Sincerly Love our Bleſſed *Lord Jeſus*, and truly believe in him, and depend only upon him for Life and Salvation, who are given up to Honuor him in their Day, by a Sober and Chriſtian Life, in Faithfulneſs and Obedience to the Meaſure of Light and Diſpenſation of Grace, and Knowledge they have received, deſiring to advance further, and come nearer to the Lord. Unto all ſuch, without reſpect to Perſons, is the Salutation of Unfeigned Love Univerſally extended in that never-dying Life of our [illegible]ed and only ſupream Head, and Glorious Captain of our [illegible]ion, the *Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; in ſome meaſure of whoſe pure Life and Heavenly Preſence, I have felt a concern upon

me for ſome time to write theſe things, for the ſtirring up the pure Mind in all, by way of Remembrance, of the many Obligations we are under, that ſo we all together may perſever to the End, and Joyn together as one Man, in contending only *for the Faith that was once delivered to the Saints*, with holy Zeal, but truly qualified by the Spirit of Love and Meekneſs; and ſo fight the good *Fight of Faith*, and finiſh our courſe with Joy; and in the end, receive the Everlaſting Crown of Life and Glory, which God hath laid up in ſtore for all who truly believe in, and ſincerly Love the Bleſſed Appearance of our dear Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; To whom be Glory both now and forever; *Amen.*

Reading, the 5th. Month, 1696. *Mary Sandilands.*

THE END.